

Memorandum W. R. Harwell to W. C. Sullivan
RE: FRANCIS HEWLAN ROSENBAUM
JOSEPH HIRSCH ROSENBAUM
97-3397

Government to conduct an inquiry into the Galindez case. Moreover, during July, 1957, Ernst and an associate, William H. Hanson, agreed to conduct this inquiry on behalf of the Baron firm.

Ernst and Hanson subsequently issued a lengthy report which, in effect, whitewashed the Trujillo regime and absolved the Dominican authorities of any connection with the Galindez affair.

PROPOSED INTERVIEWS OF BARON AND ERNST:

Washington Field Office, which is origin in instant matter, has now recommended that New York Office be authorized to interview Baron and Ernst to determine if they have any pertinent knowledge of the Rosenbaums' connection with the Dominican Government and specifically whether they have any knowledge that the Rosenbaums were instrumental in the hiring of Baron and Ernst by Dominican authorities. If Baron or Ernst have knowledge of this nature, this would, of course, represent further substantiation of the fact that the subjects had acted as Dominican agents.

OBSERVATIONS:

Our relations with Ernst during recent years, and particularly since his involvement in the Galindez case, have been most circumspect and we have not initiated any contacts with him since 1957 when he indicated publicly that he felt Alger Hiss was innocent, with the implication that some of the evidence developed by the FBI in the Hiss case was not authentic. Ernst's activities in connection with the Galindez matter have been most questionable and have served to largely discredit him and to destroy the reputation he had previously gained for integrity.

Bureau files contain no pertinent references to Baron other than his connection with the Galindez case. It is noted that, according to available information, Dominican authorities originally approached Baron to handle Galindez inquiry (through Dominican Ambassador de Moya) and Baron subsequently retained Ernst and Hanson. Accordingly, it seems likely that Baron rather than Ernst would be in the best position to have knowledge of the Rosenbaums' alleged role as intermediaries.